United Nations A/AC.154/372

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 May 2007

Original: English

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

## Letter dated 10 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

I have the honour to address you in your capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, attaching a note verbale dated 9 May 2007 (see annex) addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, expressing our concern about the decision of authorities of the host country to deny a visa to a representative of the Cuban non-governmental organization, Unión Nacional de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC)), preventing her from participating in the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was held from 26 February to 9 March 2007.

I would appreciate it if you would distribute the present letter and its annex as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Diaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-35343 (E) 240507

## Annex to the letter dated 10 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Permanent Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the decision of the authorities of the host country to deny a visa to a representative of the Cuban non-governmental organization, Unión Nacional de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC)), preventing her from participating in the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was held from 26 February to 9 March 2007.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations would like to point out that UNEAC has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and that its representatives have actively participated in other sessions of the above-mentioned Commission.

The National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba of the situation and further requested the Ministry to denounce the event, through the Cuban Mission to the United Nations, and to express its deepest concern about the arbitrary and unjustified denial of a visa to UNEAC to participate in the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women by the authorities of the host country.

On the occasion in question, Mrs. Fablola Mora, from the UNEAC Department of International Relations, attended an interview and made the corresponding payment for her visa at the United States Interest Section in Havana. Later, on 26 February 2007, the Interest Section informed her that she was authorized to enter United States territory, but that she wouldn't be able to participate in the meeting. Finally, she received a document denying her visa, allegedly because her presence in the territory of the United States was detrimental to national interests.

Such events contravene the obligations of the host country contained in the host country agreement and further contradict the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

The aforementioned practice keeps Cuban non-governmental organizations from participating with the rest of the community of non-governmental organizations in contributing to the work of the United Nations organs.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations once again urges the host country to reconsider its position with regard to the issues pointed out, in accordance with the general principles of international law of equality and non-discrimination.

9 May 2007